RELATIONSHIP OF PROJECTS IN CALFED'S CONVEYANCE PROGRAM

In the CALFED August 2000 Record of Decision for the Programmatic EIR/S, a through-Delta conveyance strategy was selected as the preferred alternative and is being implemented under the CALFED Conveyance Program Element. The goals of the conveyance strategy are to identify and implement through-Delta conveyance modifications that will: (1) improve water supply reliability for in-Delta users and Delta exporters, (2) support continuous improvement in drinking water quality, (3) complement ecosystem restoration, and (4) reduce the risk of water supply disruptions due to catastrophic breaching of Delta levees. Some actions planned under the Conveyance Program are expected to meet multiple goals, but in most cases, an individual action will achieve one goal more than another. For this reason, the Conveyance Program is a "package" deal that, on whole, moves each of the four goals forward.

The actions being implemented under the through-Delta strategy contribute to and thus relate to meeting the objectives of the conveyance program. These actions and their contribution to the program are described as follows:

North Delta Actions

- ***Evaluate potential re-operation of the Delta Cross Channel*** – The CVP releases water from Shasta and Folsom Lakes, and the SWP releases water from Lake Oroville. All releases flow into the Sacramento River and then into the Delta. The Delta Cross Channel transfers some of this water into the San Joaquin River and south Delta. Past closures of the Delta Cross Channel to improve migratory conditions for Sacramento River salmon have come at the risk or expense of water supply disruptions and degraded drinking water quality for in-Delta municipal users and Delta exporters. This action will determine if the Delta Cross Channel can be operated in a manner which will provide fisheries benefit without significant impacts to water supply or water quality. The action will hopefully result in improved water supply and water quality conditions for in-Delta users and Delta exporters.

- ***Evaluate potential screened through-Delta diversion facility (4000 cfs) on the Sacramento River*** – This involves a thorough assessment of the technical viability of a 4000 cfs diversion facility off the Sacramento River and a resolution of fishery concerns about such a diversion facility. This evaluation would be conducted in conjunction with the Delta Cross Channel assessment. If constructed, this action would complement the Delta Cross Channel re-operation in drinking water quality for Delta exporters and ecosystem restoration by minimizing adverse effects to Delta fish. Therefore, this action seeks to improve water supply and water quality conditions for in-Delta users and Delta exporters, and contribute towards ecosystem restoration.

- ***Design and construct floodway improvements in the North Delta*** – This action would implement flood control improvements that will contribute toward meeting levee system integrity and ecosystem restoration objectives. Components considered for flood control such as setback levees and flood bypass areas may be configured to create quality habitat for

species of concern. These actions may also may also reduce the potential for water supply disruptions and provide recreation benefits.

South Delta Actions

- ***Increase SWP pumping to 8,500 cfs, and then to 10,300 cfs*** – The SWP exports water from the Delta through operation of the Banks Pumping Plant which has a maximum capacity of 10,300 cfs. Before reaching Banks, water is first conveyed into Clifton Court Forebay and then through the Skinner Fish Protective Facility where the majority of the fish are screened out of the water. Diversions at Clifton Court Forebay are currently limited to 6680 cfs from March 15 through December 15. The proposed action seeks to increase the maximum allowable diversion rate at Clifton Court Forebay to 8500 cfs during this period. Following this, the pumping capability would be increased up to 10,300 cfs. These actions would provide additional capability to export surplus flows when water quality is better, and to complement ecosystem restoration by providing the flexibility to pump more during times when impacts to fish species of concern are minimal. This would also provide the capability to pump water for the Environmental Water Account. Therefore, this action seeks to improve water supply and water quality for Delta exporters and minimize impacts to the Delta ecosystem.

- ***Design and construct new fish screens at Clifton Court Forebay and Tracy Pumping Plant*** – This action would reduce impacts to Delta fish entrained at the SWP and CVP export facilities. This action contemplates the construction of a new SWP intake facility to Clifton Court Forebay, and improvements to the CVP's intake facility at Tracy. Fishery regulations generally require that new intakes such as those being proposed, install new positive fish screens to reduce impacts to smaller sizes of fish. These new facilities will utilize state-of-the-art fish salvaging processes to collect and return entrained fish back to the Delta more efficiently and effectively. This action is being implemented as a condition to increasing SWP pumping up to 10,300 cfs, and seeks to contribute towards ecosystem restoration.

- ***Dredge and install operable barriers to ensure water of adequate quality and quantity to agricultural diverters in the south Delta*** – Three of the operable barriers would improve the water supply reliability for agricultural in-Delta users. The fourth barrier located at the Head of Old River enhances migratory conditions in the spring and fall for San Joaquin River salmon. The three agricultural barriers will improve the water supply reliability of in-Delta water users which have previously been impacted by CVP and SWP Delta export operations. This action, therefore, contributes toward improving water supply for in-Delta water users and ecosystem restoration.

- ***Construct interties between the Delta-Mendota Canal and the California Aqueduct*** – This action would provide water supply benefits to CVP Delta exporters at times when the Tracy Pumping Plant is unable to operate at needed pumping capacity. It may also provide water supply benefits to SWP Delta exporters in the event of a major prolonged outage of the California Aqueduct.

- ***Design and construct floodway improvements on the lower San Joaquin River to provide flood control and ecosystem benefits*** – This action has multiple links to the Conveyance, Levee and Ecosystem Restoration Programs, however, because of its strong contribution toward improving water supply reliability, this project has been integrated into the Conveyance Program. The project as proposed would benefit ecosystem restoration since levee improvements would be made in a manner that creates additional habitat for fish and wildlife. This action would also benefit in-Delta users in the south Delta by reducing the risk of levee failure and island flooding.

The following actions have links to not only the Conveyance Program, but also to the Water Quality Program in CALFED. In order to better coordinate the planning and implementation of these actions with the Conveyance Program, they are being implemented as part of the Conveyance Program.

- ***Reduce agricultural drainage in the Delta*** – This action involves implementation of projects on Veale and Byron Tract to reduce or relocate major sources of drainage into south Delta channels. These projects support the effort at improving drinking water quality for in-Delta municipal users. Implementation of these projects will also offset impacts of the three agricultural barriers.

- ***Construct a San Luis Reservoir Low Point Improvement Project***– As initially conceived, this action would allow the Santa Clara Valley Water District to receive water from the Delta via a new canal around San Luis Reservoir, thereby avoiding water quality problems associated with the low point water levels in San Luis Reservoir. The scope of the project has presently been expanded to also evaluate the feasibility of water treatment, alternative water storage, alternative San Luis Reservoir operation, etc. This action is expected to lead to a project which will provide the Santa Clara Valley Water District with a more reliable source of better quality water for the future.